

Application Serial No.: 10/677,918
Response to Office Action
Transmission Date: August 8, 2008

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III. Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the above-identified application as follows. The following amendments are made for purposes of clarification and not for purposes of patentability. The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

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1. (Currently amended) A device for processing containers having a plurality of biological sample wells wherein at least one of the wells includes a biological sample, the device comprising:

at least two processing stations;

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a sample guide between the at least two processing stations; and

an actuator of the container from at least one processing station to at least another processing station.

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2. (Original) A device as in claim 1, wherein at least one of the processing stations comprises a processing plate dispenser.

3. (Original) A device as in claim 1, wherein at least one of the processing stations comprises a processing plate agitator.

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4. (Original) A device as in claim 1, wherein at least one of the processing stations comprises a processing fluid dispenser.

5. (Original) A device as in claim 4, wherein said processing fluid dispenser comprises a set of injectors.

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6. (Original) A device as in claim 5, wherein said injectors are recessed.

7. (Currently amended) A device as in claim 5, wherein said injectors are stationary.

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8. (Currently amended) A device as in claim 4, wherein said processing fluid dispenser comprises:

5 a reservoir comprising:
a biological substance process input port; and
a plurality of dispense ports; and
a set of dispensing protrusions connected to the dispense ports.

9. (Original) A device as in claim 1, wherein at least one of the processing 10 stations comprises a processing plate piercer.

10. (Original) A device as in claim 1, wherein at least one of the processing stations comprises a pressure aperture.

15 11. (Original) A device as in claim 1, wherein the at least one of the processing stations comprises a seal positioned and arranged for interaction with the container.

12. (Original) A device as in claim 1, wherein at least one of the processing stations comprises a collector plate dispenser.

20 13. (Original) A device as in claim 1, wherein at least one of the processing stations comprises a collector plate sealer.

14. (Currently amended) A device as in claim 1, wherein said at least two 25 processing stations comprise at least two multi-sample, biological sample container processing stations and further comprising:

guides between the at least two multi-sample, biological sample container processing stations; and

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stops at a plurality of the at least two multi-sample, biological sample container processing stations.

15. (Original) A device as in claim 14, wherein at least one processing stations
5 comprises a seal positioned and arranged for contact with a sample container.

16. (Original) A device as in claim 15, wherein the least one processing station comprising a seal further comprises a pressure aperture.

10 17. (Original) A device as in claim 14, further comprising a slideable actuator mounted between the at least two processing stations.

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18. (Currently amended) A system for treatment of a plurality of biological samples in a multi-sample container, the system comprising:

means for moving a first multi-sample container to a first processing station;

means for processing the first multi-sample container at the first processing station;

5 means for moving the first multi-sample container to a second processing station;

means for moving a second multi-sample container to the first processing station;

means for processing the first multi-sample container at the second processing station; and

10 means for processing the second multi-sample container at the first processing station.

19. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 18, wherein said means for moving the first multi-sample container is operated during at least a portion of the moving the second multi-sample container.

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20. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 18, wherein said means for processing the first multi-sample container at the second processing stations operates occurs during at least a portion of the processing of the second multi-sample container at the first second processing station.

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21. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 18, wherein said means for processing the first multi-sample container at the first processing station comprises means for contacting a processing fluid with the biological samples in the first multi-sample container.

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22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

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24. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 18, wherein said means for processing the first multi-sample container at the first processing station comprises means for agitating the first multi-sample container.

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25. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 18, wherein said means of processing the first multi-sample container at the first processing station comprises means for creating an aperture for at least one sample in the first multi-sample container.

10 26. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 25, 6 wherein said means for creating an aperture comprises means for piercing the multi-sample.

27. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 26, 8 wherein said means for piercing comprises an elongate member.

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28. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 25, 6 wherein said means for processing comprises means for removing of a fluid through the aperture.

20 29. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 28, 17 wherein said means for removing comprises means for creating a pressure differential between an interior well of the multi-sample container and the aperture, wherein the pressure is greater in the well than at the aperture.

25 30. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 18, wherein said means for moving comprises means for pushing the multi-sample container.

31. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 18, wherein said means for moving comprises a linearly-actuated member comprising— a multi-sample container contact member.

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32. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 18, wherein said means for moving comprises a track having means for guiding the multi-sample container from the first processing station to the second processing station.

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33. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 32, 24 wherein said track further comprises stops for positioning the multi-sample container at the first processing station and at the second processing station.

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34. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 18, further comprising:
means for receiving the first multi-sample container, at a first processing location;
means for guiding the first multi-sample container to a second processing location;

15 means for holding the first multi-sample container at the second processing location; and

means for receiving a second multi-sample container at the first processing location.

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35. (Withdrawn) A method for treatment of a plurality of biological samples in multi-sample container, the method comprising:

5 moving a first multi-sample container to a first processing station,
processing the first multi-sample container at the first processing station,
moving the first multi-sample container to a second processing station
moving a second multi-sample container to the first processing station
processing the first multi-sample container at the second processing station
processing the second multi-sample container at the first processing station.

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36. (Withdrawn) A system for harvesting polynucleotides from a growth plate in which bacteria that include the polynucleotides reside and in which growth media reside, the method comprising:

- means for inserting into the growth plate a lysis fluid
- 5 means for agitating the lysis fluid and bacteria in the growth plate
- means for creating an aperture in the growth plate
- means for inserting a wash fluid into the growth plate
- means for passing a gas through the growth plate
- means for inserting a solubilizing fluid into the growth plate, and
- 10 means for creating a pressure differential across the processing plate whereby DNA is removed from the growth plate.

37. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 wherein the lysis fluid comprises a buffer.

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- 38. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 wherein the lysis fluid comprises a substantially neutral pH.

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- 39. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 wherein the lysis fluid comprises a non-alkaline fluid.

40. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 wherein the lysis fluid comprises a salt.

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- 41. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 wherein the salt comprises an acetate-containing salt.

42. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 2D wherein the acetate-containing salt consists essentially of a TRIS acetate salt.

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43. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 2D wherein the salt consists essentially of a chaotropic salt.

44. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 wherein the lysis fluid comprises a 5 detergent.

45. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 wherein the wash fluid comprises a buffer.

10 46. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 wherein the wash fluid comprises an enzyme.

15 47. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 3A wherein the enzyme comprises an RNA-specific enzyme.

48. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 3A wherein the enzyme comprises a non-DNA specific enzyme.

20 49. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 3A wherein the enzyme is chosen from a group consisting essentially of: DNASE, RDNASE, or PROTEASE.

50. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 wherein the wash fluid solubilises lipids, chaotropic salts, and carbohydrates, faster than the wash fluid solubilises DNA.

25 51. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 wherein the wash fluid comprises alcohol.

52. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 3B wherein a majority of the wash fluid comprises alcohol.

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53. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 3D wherein the wash fluid comprises between 30% and 98% by volume.

5 54. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 further comprising:
means for removing the wash fluid from the growth plate and
means for reinserting the wash fluid into the growth plate.

10 55. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 further comprising means for inserting of the wash fluid into the growth plate before the removal of the lysis fluid.

56. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 7 wherein said means for inserting the wash fluid operates before said means for removing the lysis fluid.

15 57. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 further comprising means for inserting a further wash fluid after removal of the wash fluid.

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58. (Withdrawn) A method for harvesting polynucleotides from a growth plate in which bacteria that include the polynucleotides reside and in which growth media reside, the method comprising:

- 5 inserting into the growth plate a lysis fluid
- agitating the lysis fluid and bacteria in the growth plate
- creating an aperture in the growth plate
- inserting a wash fluid into the growth plate
- passing a gas through the growth plate
- 10 inserting a solubilizing fluid into the growth plate, and
- creating a pressure differential across the processing plate whereby DNA is removed from the growth plate.

59. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein the lysis fluid comprises a buffer.

60. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein the lysis fluid comprises a substantially neutral pH.

20 61. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein the lysis fluid comprises a non-alkaline fluid.

62. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein the lysis fluid comprises a salt.

25 63. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein the salt comprises an acetate-containing salt.

64. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 2D wherein the acetate-containing salt consists essentially of a TRIS acetate salt.

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65. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 2D wherein the salt consists essentially of a chaotropic salt.

5 66. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein the lysis fluid comprises a detergent.

67. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein the wash fluid comprises a buffer.

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68. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein the wash fluid comprises an enzyme.

15 69. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 3A wherein the enzyme comprises an RNA-specific enzyme.

70. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 3A wherein the enzyme comprises a non-DNA specific enzyme.

20 71. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein the wash fluid poorly solubilises DNA.

72. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein the wash fluid solubilises lipids, chaotropic salts, and carbohydrates, faster than the wash fluid solubilises DNA.

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73. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein the wash fluid comprises alcohol.